

# Ward 1 2021-2022 Annual Report

Accomplishments from Councilmember Edwards' third year in office

## NEIGHBORHOODS



Councilmember Edwards increased funding for trees, streets, and sidewalks this year, including the completed Magnolia Repaving Project, the Palm Avenue Sewer Project in the Wood Streets, and the Salmon River Repaving Project in the Northside. Councilmember Edwards beautified the Northside with vibrant banners and a website promoting the Northside Specific Plan. She was a champion for the Northside Agricultural and Innovation Center, which received \$1 million in Federal funding. Also this year, Spanish Town Heritage Foundation secured \$10.4 million in State funding towards the preservation of the Trujillo Adobe.

## PARKS & THE RIVER

Councilmember Edwards advocated for \$5.8 million for a Wildlands Public Safety and Engagement Team to address the humanitarian crisis in the river bottom. To reduce fire risk, Councilmember Edwards supported a strengthened anti-camping ordinance in wildland areas. She co-chaired the Mayor's Santa Ana River Visioning Taskforce and met with neighbors to discuss the Riverside Gateway Project. In September, Riverside celebrated World Rivers Day in Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park. Two hundred neighbors joined the 26th Annual River Clean Up, and the Parks Department removed 30 invasive palm trees along the river trail.





## DOWNTOWN



Councilmember Edwards celebrated The Cheech's grand opening in June 2022. From the Council dais, she approved the architects for the Museum of Riverside's renovation and expansion. PRIDE Fest made a comeback, and the 30th Annual Festival of Lights lit up the City. Councilmember Edwards advocated for non-profit and business security grants with American Rescue Plan Act funding. New businesses such as Things They Love, Roots, Mi Cultura, EveryTable, and The Beignet Spot joined our Downtown. Councilmember Edwards keeps businesses informed through her monthly column in the Downtown Partnership's Business Improvement District Bulletin.

## HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness decreased by 8% in Riverside this year.\* In her third year as Chair of the Housing & Homelessness Committee, Councilmember Edwards spearheaded Riverside's Homelessness Action Plan, which passed in Fall 2022. In October, Mission Heritage Plaza and the Civil Rights Institute opened, bringing 72 more units of affordable housing to Downtown. Ward 1 welcomed Backporch Homes to Hunter Park. Councilmember Edwards championed funding to expand the Office of Homeless Solutions and the Urban Public Safety & Engagement Teams, allowing the City to hire 14 additional homeless outreach workers.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Councilmember Edwards hosted monthly office hours and business office hours. She advocated for robust community input in conversations about Redistricting, Downtown Parking, and the 2022/2024 City Budget. To bring awareness to Downtown housing developments, Councilmember Edwards hosted a meeting with more than 60 neighbors in Heritage Square. She regularly attended neighborhood and stakeholder meetings, continues to serve as the Council's liaison to the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership, and sends monthly e-newsletters spotlighting policies and events.





# Thank you for a productive third year.

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\*Per the 2022 Homeless Point In Time Count. Find the report and infographic here: <https://rivcopitc2022-countyofriverside.hub.arcgis.com/>

